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materially different process than that in Claims 1-13. Claim 14 has been amended, and now require an "applying machine" and therefore may not be used in a materially different process from that of Claims 1-13. Thus, the basis for the restriction requirement has been overcome, and is no longer applicable. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of Claims 1-18 is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.D. Erickson".

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**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

14. (Amended) A carrier for unitizing a plurality of containers, the carrier having an unstressed condition prior to application to the plurality of containers and a stressed condition subsequent to application to the plurality of adjacent containers with an applying machine, each container of the plurality of adjacent containers having a maximum diameter, the carrier comprising:

a sheet of flexible plastic having a plurality of elongated apertures aligned in longitudinal rows and transverse ranks, which elongated apertures are oriented in a longitudinal direction of the carrier and in the unstressed condition have a longitudinal pitch between each adjacent elongated aperture, the longitudinal pitch having a first length greater than a distance between adjacent containers of the plurality of adjacent containers;

a plurality of relief holes positioned in the sheet, the relief holes positioned between adjacent longitudinal rows of elongated apertures; and

a container pitch between each adjacent elongated aperture when the carrier is in the stressed condition after application to the containers, the container pitch having a second length approximately equal to the maximum diameter and shorter than the first length.